Kids Hope Alliance - December Board Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2023

1. Special Performance

Maria McNair, Lutheran Services of Florida

Marsha Oliver called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. She began by welcoming everyone to the Board meeting and introduced the children from the Don Brewer Center who regaled the audience with a series of Christmas carols.

2. Introductions and Instructions

Marsha Oliver, Board Chair

Ms. Oliver then provided a recap of recent events which KHA participated in along with Read USA, PAL/JSO and the I’m a Star Foundation. Read USA conducted tutor training as well as mock interviews with returning tutors to help them with their career readiness skills. The second event was held at Cascades Apartments, which is directly behind the Dollar General where the tragic shooting took place earlier this year. The event provided a food giveaway for families in the area as well as activities for children and families to connect and receive assistance. The Let’s Move Jacksonville event hosted by the I‘m a Star Foundation celebrated its 11th year of the Healthy Food and Fitness Festival which included kickball, line dancing and yoga just to name a few. The event was held at Klutho Park and had hundreds of children in attendance, from partner agencies, including CIS and others.

Members Present: Marsha Oliver- Board Chair, Kevin Gay – Board Vice Chair, Connie Hodges – Governance Chair, Meredith Chartrand-Frisch – Governance Vice Chair, Lawrence Dennis, Cynthia Nixon - Finance Chair and Carson Tranquille – Finance Vice Chair

Members Absent: None

3. Employee Service Recognition

Marsha Oliver, Board Chair

Ms. Oliver recognized Dae Lynn Kennedy and Sherrill Smith-Hensley for their long-term, dedicated service to the City of Jacksonville by sharing a congratulatory letter from Mayor Donna Deegan and presenting them with a Service pin. These employees' combined service totals 45 years.

4. Public Comments

Ms. Oliver explained that public comments would be taken at the beginning of the meeting for all items that will be voted on at the meeting. These comments should only be in reference to those action items below. A separate public comment time will be open at the end of the meeting for any general comments to be made by the public.

5. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Oliver asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November Board meeting.

Motion - Carson Tranquille

Second - Meredith Chartrand-Frisch

Approved 7-0

6. Governance Committee Recap

Connie Hodges, Governance Chair

Ms. Hodges shared that the Governance Committee met on the morning of November 27th. All committee members, including Meredith Frisch and Lawrence Dennis, were present, in addition to the Board Chair, Marsha Oliver.

The Board Action items on today’s agenda were discussed in depth and each item was approved unanimously by the committee.

The committee also discussed the timeline and activities which will be completed between December and July. The first major endeavor for the committee will be to review and modify the Board Bylaws as needed. This will take place in January, and recommendations will be presented to the rest of the Board shortly thereafter.

Ms. Hodges thanked the committee members for their presence and support and indicated that she was looking forward to an impactful year leading this work.

7. Finance Committee Recap

Cynthia Nixon, Finance Chair

Mrs. Nixon indicated that the Finance Committee met on the afternoon of November 27th. Committee member Carson Tranquille was present as well as Kevin Gay who attended the meeting virtually. The Board Chair, Marsha Oliver, was also present. The Board Action items on today’s agenda were discussed at length and were approved unanimously by the committee. The finance reports discussed included the Budget to Actual Finance Report through October FY 23/24 along with a preliminary end of year report for September FY 22/23. The committee requested that future financial reports include a breakdown of each line item which is included on the summary reports and will work with Jessica Pitts, Finance Director, to create a new template for the future.

The Committee also discussed the timeline and activities which will be completed between December and July. The first major endeavor for the Committee will be to review KHA’s Finance-related Board Policies, which will take place in January. Recommendations will be presented to the rest of the Board shortly thereafter. Mrs. Nixon thanked each committee member for their presence and support and shared that she is looking forward to a successful year.

8. Consent Agenda

Dr. Saralyn Grass, Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Grass provided an overview of the Board Action items and explained that with the exception of the Pediatric Mental Health Support action item, these initiatives would make up the Consent Agenda. It was determined that additional discussion was needed on the Pediatric Mental Health Support action item which would be discussed and voted on separately.

In addition, these action items, with the exception of the Workforce Development RFP, were determined by the Mayor's office and recommendations from the transition committees.

a**.** UNF Intensive Summer Literacy ($850,000)

The purpose of this grant funding is to provide a more intensive summer program, in up to 20 KHA sites, which includes high-quality coaching, extensive literacy support and dynamic family engagement components. UNF/FIE has developed a curriculum that was used in prior years and data analysis showed improvement in summer learning loss.

b**.** CAP Youth Artist Program ($100,000)

The Cathedral Arts Project’s (CAP) field trip initiative is a key component of a broader collective impact effort aimed at enhancing literacy and arts education in our community. This initiative will allow our students to attend field trips at the Florida Theater and other arts venues this summer and provide teachers with professional development opportunities.

c**.** Ferst Readers Early Literacy ($100,000)

The purpose of this increased funding is to provide one book per month to children from birth to 4 years old who are enrolled in head start or a school readiness program. A book will also be provided to the center’s library on behalf of each child. This initiative has already yielded positive results by involving families and teachers in the reading process.

d. Afterschool and Summer Literacy Expansion ($1,900,000)

The purpose of this grant funding is to increase funded seats at various locations due to waiting lists. This expansion enables providers to serve additional afterschool students (700) and ensures that enhanced security is provided to school sites that have over 100 students.

e. Workforce Development Education and Training Services ($250,000)

This item originated from the JUMP legislation and allows KHA to use funding to release an RFP for workforce development and training services to youth, young adults and prime age adults.

After Dr. Grass' summary of the items on the Consent Agenda, Ms. Oliver asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion - Kevin Gay

Second - Connie Hodges

Approved 7-0

f. Pediatric Mental Health Support ($430,000)

This action item originated in the Health Initiatives Transition Sub Committee. The program provides mental health support, via Angel Kids, to children covered by Medicaid. Ms. Oliver shared that the board members recognize the importance of mental health and the gaps/disparities and would just like to understand who is being served through this program.

Dr. Ashraf Affan, President and Founder of Angel Kids, provided an overview of their service services provided by this action item. He shared that mental health services are in crisis and Florida ranks #50 for delivery of pediatric mental health care. Angel Kids has 9 clinics in operation and serves 20,000 kids covered by Medicare. Their program integrates behavioral health into primary care and is working to alleviate the 24 month wait to receive mental health services.

Children are referred by their primary care doctors and many of these students are under 5 years old. Students who are in the school system will be able to access services through full service schools who will refer kids to Angel Kids for severe cases. Some students are also referred to Angel Kids by the Partnership for Child Health System of Care. Once the action item is funded, KHA will be able to offer these mental health services to our network of youth.

Dr. Grass mentioned that KHA is going to be working with the providers and Wolfson Children's Hospital to determine if students have Medicaid and if they are a part of an afterschool program. The contract will detail the data needed tounderstand KHA’s return on investment. Ms. Oliver asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion - Carson Tranquille

Second - Connie Hodges

Approval 7-0

9. Partner Presentations

Desiree Jones, Owner & CEO

Step by Step Behavioral Health Services

Ms. Oliver introduced Desiree Jones, Owner & CEO of Step by Step Behavioral Services, and Dr. Grass indicated that Ms. Jones previously completed the Small Provider program and applied for the Children Youth and their Families RFP and received funding.

Ms. Jones summarized the Behavioral Health services offered by her program which include Case Management, Counseling/Therapy, Life Skills and Mentoring.

10. Programs Update

Kenneth Darity, Chief Administrative Officer

Mr. Darity provided an update on programming and began by sharing that 9,828 students were served in October. The number of contracts being compiled is 215 and the Quality team completed 90 site visits to date for this contract year. The Quality team also completed 20 safe environment checks to ensure that facilities for new providers are safe for students.

He went on to share that KHA 101 is a monthly meeting which takes place with potential providers. During this meeting, KHA staff shares information about department processes, answers provider questions and allows time for providers to network and learn from each other.

Mr. Darity also explained that future program updates will include the status of contracts, the percentage of funds being used and the status of reimbursements. This data will also potentially reveal providers who may require technical assistance to submit upcoming reimbursements.

11. CEO Report

Dr. Saralyn Grass, Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Grass reported that JUMP legislation, in the amount of $335,000, was passed by City Council’s Neighborhoods Committee earlier that day. The $5.8 million dollar funding from the Mayor's Office also passed. She also explained that KHA is a part of the Florida Alliance of Children's Councils and Trusts and several KHA leaders would be attending the annual FACCT conference on December 13-15 in Orlando.

Dr. Grass acknowledged the presence of our two liaisons beginning with JSO Chief Morris Halyard who provided an overview of the Newtown community event which provided fun and food to over 400 households.

On behalf of school Principals, Dr. Anna Dewese, DCPS, thanked the Board for their partnership and the additional dollars which will be used to expand afterschool seats.

Finally, Dr. Grass shared that KHA will be partnering with the First Baptist Church of Oakland to provide backpacks, toys and school supplies to students in the 32206 zip code on Christmas Eve.

12. Public Comments

Dr. Vicki Waytowich shared that there was a Candy Cane Lane event recently held at Emmett Reed which included several KHA providers. In addition, the Partnership for Child Health is working with Pastor Harris, from Mt. Olive Baptist Church, and St. Joseph's Missionary Church to provide space for members of the community to perform their work.

13. Board Discussion

Ms. Oliver reminded everyone that Deborah Sibley would be sending out potential dates for upcoming Board meetings.

14. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Marsha Oliver at 1:45 pm.